

TRANSPORTATION

1. General Requirements

- A. Payment for transportation services is available to assist recipients to obtain necessary medical examination and treatment if those transportation services cannot be obtained free of charge. Eligible providers are required to enroll as an approved provider of transportation services and payment is made as a basic service available to all recipients as an approved Medicaid optional service through the Medicaid Management Information System.
- B. A transportation provider may be an individual who agrees to provide transportation services or a business that provides commercial forms of transportation. No member of the recipient's medical assistance unit may be paid as an enrolled provider for transportation to that recipient.
- C. County social services agencies may determine the most efficient economical and appropriate means of travel to meet the medical needs of the recipient.

2. Limitations

- A. No transportation services will be allowed in those instances where a recipient chooses to obtain medical services outside the recipient's community if similar services are available in the community and the recipient does not obtain a referral from a primary physician.
- B. Transportation expenses may be authorized for the recipient and a driver and/or an attendant depending on the age and medical needs of the recipient. Payment for transportation expenses for a volunteer driver and/or attendant while a recipient is a patient in a medical facility will not be allowed unless it is more economical than requiring another round trip to return the recipient home.
- C. Transportation expenses may be authorized for one parent for a child who is under 18 years of age for a reasonable amount of time as determined by the Department. No additional travel expenses will be

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authorized unless it can be determined that additional individuals are necessary to meet the physical or mental needs of the child.

- D. No payment for non-emergency out-of-state transportation expenses will be paid unless the services are prior approved by the Department of Human Services.
- E. Payment for private vehicle mileage will be limited to a per mile amount established by the Department. If more than one recipient is transported in a private vehicle at the same time, payment is limited to the established per mile limit.
- F. Payment for meals is allowed only when medical services or travel arrangements require a recipient to be away from home overnight. Payment is limited to a per diem amount established by the Department.
- G. Payment for lodging expenses is allowed only when it is necessary for a recipient to be away from home in order to obtain appropriate and necessary medical services. Payment is limited to a maximum amount for each night stay as established by the Department.
- H. Payment for attendant services may be allowed at a rate established by the Department. Payment for attendant services is not allowed for family members including spouse, sibling, parent, stepparent, child, stepchild, grandparents, step-grandparents, grandchild, step-grandchild, aunt, uncle, niece, or nephew, whether by half or whole blood and whether by birth, marriage, or adoption.
- I. A nursing facility must provide medically necessary transportation services free of charge to all residents of a facility, except in those instances when it is medically necessary for the resident to receive care in a location beyond the "medical center city", as defined by the Department, that is closest to the nursing facility. If the nursing facility chooses to provide transportation services beyond the closest medical center city, there can be no additional charge for the transportation services.
- J. Emergency transport by ambulance is a covered service when it can be

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demonstrated that the medical condition of the recipient would normally require the need for emergency transport in accordance with the prudent layperson concept and established medically necessary criteria of the Department. Non-emergency transport by ambulance is a covered service only when it can be demonstrated that transportation by other methods would not be medically appropriate and must be ordered by the attending physician.

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